

Legislative Planning Committee

Study Assignment

The LRC Executive Board approved the Legislative Planning Committee's proposed plan of study for the 2015 interim which included an evaluation of the benchmarks and performance measures the committee has compiled so far, a study of public postsecondary education in the state particularly focusing on how the institutions of higher education and the postsecondary technical institutes are meeting the workforce needs of the state, and lastly, a first look into the topic of healthcare in the state.

Summary of Interim

The committee met in July, August, and October, and will meet for a final time this year in December. At the first meeting, members received updates on many of the goals, objectives, and dashboard indicators that were established as part of the committee's previous study of workforce development issues. Dr. Melody Schopp, the Secretary of the Department of Education, provided the committee with information relating to her department's primary goal for K-12 education, which is to have students enter postsecondary education without the need for remediation. David Reiss with the Department of Tribal Relations highlighted current efforts to enhance workforce development on the reservations, and Marcia Hultman, the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Regulation, provided members with current unemployment data and information on state efforts to create and fill jobs and enhance economic development. Committee members also heard from the presidents of the state's postsecondary technical institutes who provided an overview of postsecondary career and technical education in the state, including the goals and objectives they strive to meet.

At its second meeting in August, the committee heard from Dr. Michael Rush, the new Executive Director of the Board of Regents, and other members of his staff who provided an overview of public higher education in South Dakota. They, too, discussed the benchmarks and performance measures they strive to achieve. In the afternoon, Senator Larry Tidemann, the Vice Chair of the Government Operations and Audit Committee, discussed that committee's role in working with certain state agencies to develop goals and accompanying performance indicators, and committee members discussed the need for all state agencies to establish such goals and indicators.

During the third meeting in October, Jennifer Stanwick-Klimek, the Deputy Warden at Mike Durfee State Prison, spoke to the committee about the education programs currently available to adult inmates in the state's correctional facilities, and committee members concluded their review of the benchmarks and performance measures established by both the Board of Regents and the postsecondary technical institutes. Paul Turman with the Board of Regents provided financial data that showed the amount of state funding provided per resident student at the various regental institutions, and he explained why that amount varies among those institutions. Lastly, the committee heard from Kim Malsam-Rysdon, the Secretary of the Department of Health, and other members of her staff who provided an overview of public health in the state, including emphasis on Indian health, the work of the Primary Care Task Force Oversight Committee, and the Governor's proposed plan for Medicaid expansion in the state.

At its upcoming fourth meeting in December, the committee will hear again from staff members from the Department of Health who will update the members on their work to establish dashboard indicators for public health in the state. In addition, the committee hopes to bring together representatives from the Department of Corrections and the postsecondary technical institutes to discuss ways in which the two can work together to provide more career and technical education opportunities for inmates in the state's correctional facilities.

Committee Work Plan

The committee will provide an updated report to the Legislature in January of the dashboard indicators for the following topics: Workforce Development, Postsecondary Education, and Public Health. These dashboard indicators of performance against key metrics and benchmarks have been identified by the committee and will be shared with all legislators for their review and use.

Listing of Legislation Adopted

None.

Summary of Meeting Dates and Places and Listing of Committee Members

The committee met in Pierre on the following dates: July 16, 2015; August 30, 2015; and October 22, 2015. The committee is scheduled to meet again on December 7, 2015.

Listing of Committee Members

Members of the committee are Representative Scott Munsterman, Chair; Senator Mike Vehle, Vice Chair; Senator Corey Brown, President Pro Tem; Representative Dean Wink, Speaker of the House and Executive Board Chair; Senators Terri Haverly, Ried Holien, and Scott Parsley; Representatives Shawn Bordeaux, Kristin Conzet, and Jacqueline Sly.

Listing of Staff Members

Staff members for the committee are Clare Charlson, Principal Research Analyst; David Ortbahn, Chief of Research and Legal Services; Stephanie Gruba, Fiscal Analyst; and Rena Ortbahn, Legislative Secretary.